

September 5, 2007

Mr. G. Arthur Padmore  
Public Advocate  
Division of Public Advocate  
State of Delaware

Regarding: Division of Public Advocate comments in Docket #06-241 (Delmarva Power "new generation" RFP)

Dear Mr. Padmore:

A member of your office attended a PSC workshop on August 18, 2006. Subsequently your office submitted INITIAL COMMENTS dated August 31, 2006, signed by Mr. John C. Citrolo.

in regard to the Indian River Power Plant (IRPP) built and formerly operated by Delmarva Power and now operated by NRG:

Of the public comments submitted in this docket, as posted on the PSC website at <http://www.state.de.us/delpsc/irp.shtml>, over ten make some direct or indirect reference to health and environmental problems caused by the IRPP.

Green Delaware's analysis of air pollution data shows that the IRPP reported releasing, on average, 187,000 pounds per day of regulated air pollutants in 2004.

This can be contrasted to the 85,000 pounds released per day by the Edge Moor and Hay Road power plants combined--  
the IRPP released over two times the air pollutants of the Edge Moor/Hay Road complex.

A spreadsheet with details can be found at <http://greendel.org/images/delpwrplants.xls>.

Recently a report from the Environmental Integrity Project (<http://www.dirtykilowatts.org>) identified the IRPP as one of the 50 dirtiest power plants in the US based on the ratio of emissions to electricity output. (The emissions used in the rankings were sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury, and carbon dioxide.) Out of the hundreds of power plants in the US, IRPP was ranked 36th dirtiest.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is proposing a "multi-pollutant" regulation that would require a significant (but not, in the eyes of many, sufficient) cleanup of the IRPP. Details are available at <http://www.awm.delaware.gov/Info/Regs/AQMMultiPReg.htm>.

NRG is fighting this proposal strongly.

This whole controversy has received extensive coverage in Delaware media, especially in the Cape Gazette.

A Google search brought up as the first relevant item an Cape Gazette article about the problems caused by the IRPP.

In a letter dated February 9, 2005, Jaime H. Rivera, Director of the Delaware Division of Public Health, wrote:

*"EPA's consultants estimate that fine particle pollution from power plants shortens the lives [kills] of 95 Delaware residents each year. In our state alone, pollution from power plants causes 13,106 lost work days, 87 hospitalizations and 2256 asthma attacks every year, 99 of which are so severe they require emergency room visits. ... Sadly, children are most susceptible to the detrimental effects of power plant pollution. In Delaware, 142,099 children live within 30 miles of a plant, the area in which the greatest health impacts are felt. Additionally, researchers have found that infants in areas with high levels of particulate matter pollution face a 26 percent increased risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and a 40 percent increased risk of respiratory death."*

Dr. Rivera's letter mentions only a fraction of the problem. Power plant pollutants cause cancer, strokes, heart attacks, birth defects, "premature delivery," reduced intelligence, and other health problems. The full letter is available at <http://greendel.org/images/dhss%20letter.pdf>.

Imagine, then my surprise to find in Mr. Citrolo's comments this:

*"The DPA has been satisfied with the Indian River power plant operated by NRG. NRG is a prominent corporate citizen. We applaud NRG's continued environmental compliance, its commitment to further reducing emissions with new technology with regard to coal generation, and its provision of reliable electricity service to the power pool."*

These words have no obvious relationship to the main argument of the comments and there are no similar eulogies to other power plants in the document.

Even if the Division of Public Advocate had done no homework whatsoever, merely by attending the "workshop" Mr. Citrolo ought to have learned better.

In short, *it is very difficult to avoid the impression that the Division of Public Advocate has responded to unwholesome influences. How else can we understand the appearance of words in DPA's comments?*

It is certain that NRG will use these inappropriate and misleading statements from the Division of Public Advocate in its lobbying campaign against a required cleanup of the Indian River Power Plant.

They are an insult to all the people in Delaware who are working to secure a cleanup of the Indian River Power Plant.

In Green Delaware's opinion, *the Division of Public Advocate ought to amend its comments*

immediately, make public a retraction, and provide some explanation of how this came about.

We agree with many of the other points made in DPA's August 31 comments.

If this letter raises any questions please contact me.

Yours very truly,

Alan Muller

Alan Muller, Executive Director  
Green Delaware  
Box 69  
Port Penn, DE 19731 USA  
(302)834-3466  
fax (302)836-3005  
greendel@dca.net  
[www.greendel.org](http://www.greendel.org)